

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) An ear type clinical thermometer, comprising:

a main body configured to be held by hand at a time when an eardrum temperature is to be measured; and

a probe fixed to and protruding from the main body and configured to be inserted into an external auditory canal of a person whose eardrum temperature is to be measured wherein:

the main body comprises at least one indicator for allowing a user to recognize and use a plurality of methods for holding the main body, the plurality of different methods which differ from each other according to the direction in which the probe is to be inserted into the external auditory canal of the person whose temperature is to be measured, and

comprising a switch for starting the measuring of the eardrum temperature, which is used across a plurality of main-body-holding methods, wherein the indicator is provided on a surface of the switch.

5-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) An ear type clinical thermometer according to claim 4, wherein the indicator is configured to allow the user to recognize and use a plurality of methods for holding the main body when the direction in which the probe is to be inserted is a direction going from an opening of the external auditory canal toward the back side of the head of the person whose temperature is to be measured, and a main-body holding method used in a case when the direction in which the probe is to be inserted is a direction going from the opening of the external auditory canal to a front side of the head of person whose temperature is to be measured.

9-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) An ear type clinical thermometer, comprising

a main body configured to be held by hand at a time when an eardrum temperature is to be measured; and a probe fixed to and protruding from the main body and configured to be inserted into an external auditory canal of a person whose eardrum temperature is to be measured wherein the main body comprises an indicator surface member provided to the main body and configured to allow a user to recognize and use a plurality of methods for holding the main body, the plurality of different methods differ from each other ~~which differ~~ according to the direction in which the probe is to be inserted into the external auditory canal of the person whose temperature is to be measured,

wherein the indicator surface member comprises a plurality of surfaces arranged substantially symmetrically with respect to a reference plane containing a center axis of the probe.

24. (Currently Amended) An ear type clinical thermometer, comprising:

a main body configured to be held by hand at a time when an eardrum temperature is to be measured; and a probe fixed to and protruding from the main body and configured to be inserted into an external auditory canal of a person whose eardrum temperature is to be measured wherein the main body comprises an indicator surface member configured to allow a user to recognize and use a plurality of methods for holding the main body, the plurality of different methods differ from each other ~~which differ~~ according to the direction in which the probe is to be inserted into the external auditory canal of the person whose temperature is to be measured,

wherein the indicator surface member comprises a plurality of surfaces arranged substantially symmetrically with respect to a reference plane containing a center axis of the probe and the indicator surface comprises a plurality of substantially flat surfaces that are aligned along a direction that is perpendicular to the reference plane and are joined in such a way that neighboring substantially flat surfaces form interior angles of 10° to 170°.

25. (Previously presented) An ear type clinical thermometer according to claim 23, wherein:

the main body has a first side where the probe protrudes from the main body and a second side opposite to the first side and from which the user holds the main body, the second side forming a curved surface having a substantially constant curvature along a direction perpendicular to a reference plane containing a center axis of the probe, a center of curvature of this curved surface being located in the vicinity of a base end of the probe.